



Word of Mouth
enews from the
South Florida Dental Hygiene Association
November, 2007

SFDHA President's Message

On behalf of all our SFDHA members I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Association. I am honored to have been chosen to represent SFDHA this year and am eager to get to know each of you on a personal level. It would be great to hear your opinions and input on what issues are a priority during the next year.

We are very proud of our component and the many goals we have accomplished. The South Florida Dental Hygiene Association is the voice of dental hygienists in South Florida. It is your voice. It speaks through advances in dental hygiene, through lobbying efforts to ensure workplace safety and patient welfare, through our newsletter "Word of Mouth," through our commitment to fostering high standards of dental hygiene practice, through our schools where future hygienists are educated, and through our dedication to community work. SFDHA represents you by projecting positive and realistic views of dental hygienists in South Florida.

SFDHA represents our profession, what we hope to accomplish, and what we hope to see in the future for dental hygienists. I would like to invite all present, new, past, and future members to take a look at what SFDHA has to offer and see the many opportunities and topics of interest for you to explore. To our prospective members who are still practicing, not currently practicing, or retired we welcome you to join us to strengthen our voice so that it is heard. We look forward to the further development of our relationship with you and together address the concerns and issues of hygienists today. Please feel free to contact any board member for any comments or questions you may have.

Diana Galvis, RDH
President, SFDHA

Preceptorship Challenge Continues

On behalf of the Florida Dental Hygiene Association, your South Florida officers would like to thank each of you for your contribution to the fund in defense of the people of Florida. Your representatives know we cannot speak for the profession of dental hygiene without your support and dedication. In this challenge, you have empowered us. We must prevent unlicensed and untrained dental assistants from attempting to perform prophylaxes and periodontal probing. We know you understand that irreversible damage can result when our patients are subjected to procedures that are not therapeutic, when appropriate therapy is available.

So keep up the good work. Get the word out to others. Download the letter of support on our website (www.fdha.org) and pass it on to any licensed hygienist, dentist, or Florida residents. Encourage your friends to join ADHA and be part of our future.

Plan to attend the RULES WORKSHOP which the Board of Dentistry has scheduled on Thursday afternoon (time between 3 & 4 PM) December 6th, prior to the December 7, 2007, BOD meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. The location of the rules workshop and BOD meeting:

Embassy Suites
1100 SE 17th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 527-2700

Once again, it takes money to defend our profession against hostile legal actions. Please send a \$35 check (or larger) made out to to FL HyPac, c/o Donna Wofford, RDH, FL HyPAC Treasurer, 2706 Clubhouse Drive, Plant City, FL 33566. Alternatively, send a check made out to FDHA, with Legal/Legislative Fund on the memo line and send it to Linda Lambert, RDH, FDHA Treasurer, 10112 Huntsman Path, Pensacola, FL 32514

Again, thank you so much for your generous support! It is sincerely appreciated.

FDHA Annual Symposium

Your delegates to FDHA's annual symposium, Carroll Cameron, Lillian Mancebo, Becky Smith, and alternate Diana Galvis, were joined this year by a strong student delegation from Miami Dade College. Led by FSADHA President Monica Hernandez, the student delegates impressed everyone with their professionalism and dedication to service. The MDC delegate to FSADHA was Maile Mathison. She introduced MDC's alternate delegate, Marcos Acosta, to the other students around the state. Marcos was promptly elected FSADHA President for 2008, marking the first time that MDC has had successive FSADHA presidents. No doubt the strong showing from MDC students who supported their delegation helped to demonstrate the leadership potential among this group. The seniors who attended were Amy Thompson, Arlene Robin, Lydia Harper, and Yakima Ortea. The freshman attendees were Marien Marroquin, Alisa Sayatakul, Laura Trien, and Jennifer de la Cruz. One of the highlights of the experience was the opportunity for the SFDHA delegation to meet with these students after the welcome reception. We can be proud of the young people who will shortly join us as oral health professionals.

SFDHA News

SFDHA Website Online

Check out our new website: sfdha.org. In between newsletters, you can access the site for information of all kinds. In fact, you'll be able to check the newsletter.

CPR Class

A CPR Refresher class will be offered Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 8:30-12:30 at Miami Dade College, Medical Center Campus. Pre registration is required. Call Karen Mattox at 305 237-4412 for the course number to register on the MDC website. The cost is \$49.00. Remember, every biennium CPR is a mandatory requirement for license renewal.

ADHA News

Know somebody who deserves to be recognized for their hard work and dedication? ADHA, in conjunction with a number of sponsors, is offering you the opportunity to nominate them! Take a look at five awards which are currently available and check back later for the many more to come.

<http://adha.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MDQwOSZwPTEmdT0xMDAwNTYwMzE2JmxpPTIzNzkw/index.html>

Access magazine is looking for your input on a variety of topics. Contact this website:

<http://adha.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MDQwOSZwPTEmdT0xMDAwNTYwMzE2JmxpPTIzNzkz/index.html>

A new issue of the Journal of Dental Hygiene is now available online. Check out the Table of Contents for the latest issue!

<http://adha.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MDQwOSZwPTEmdT0xMDAwNTYwMzE2JmxpPTIzNzk0/index.html>

President Bush has vetoed SCHIP because it funds the program at more than the \$5 billion recommended by the administration. The legislation would have made health care accessible for millions of American children and was supported by members of both political parties. Recent polling also indicates that a majority of Americans support the SCHIP reauthorization and are concerned that President Bush vetoed the measure.

You can e-mail the White House with your comments using this link: comments@whitehouse.gov. Phone calls can be placed to the White House at 202-456-1111. If you have any questions about ADHA's efforts to advocate for SCHIP, please feel free to call the Governmental Affairs Division at 312-440-8925.

New BOD Member

Dr. Robert Perdomo III, from Miami-Dade, was recently appointed to the Board of Dentistry. He is the dental director of Community Smiles, offering comprehensive dental care to indigent patients. In 2006, the staff and personnel of Community Smiles served 2,444 patients at their only location, the Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center near Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Perdomo's dedication to providing dental services to underserved populations helps to alleviate an urgent need in our community. Dr. Perdomo will be a credit to the board of dentistry.

Governor Crist also appointed Dr. Dan Gesek of Jacksonville and Dr. Wade Winker of Eustis to fill two of the dentist positions. Ms. Elmira Gainey was re-appointed as a consumer member. The FDA supported all three appointees

License Renewal

Your licenses will expire at midnight, Eastern Time, on February 28, 2008. Dental hygienists should be mailed a postcard reminder within a few days. We are the initial licensees to pilot a new electronic license renewal program. The postcard will direct you to log into the following website: www.FLHealthSource.com to renew your license. While it is possible to print a renewal form from the website and renew by mail, all licensees are encouraged to renew their license online. Renewing online is less costly and the renewal will be processed faster. You can also print out a receipt after you renew online and this can serve as your temporary license and proof that you have renewed. The Board of Dentistry has reduced the dental hygienist license renewal fee this biennium to \$105.

Employment Opportunities

A job has been noticed in Coral Springs, Monday-Thursdays & 1/2 day on Friday. If you're interested call Mr. Meskin, 954-540-0480. Say that you were referred by Dr. Nilo Hernandez/Jessica Nodal R.D.H.

ADHA Seeks Director of Member Services

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has an immediate opening for a director of member services. The candidate chosen for this position will have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and three years of membership experience with a not-for-profit organization. Experience with branding as well as iMIS membership software is highly desirable. Strong oral and written communications skills and computer literacy required.

See<<http://adha.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT00MDQwOSZwPTEmdT0xMDAwNTYwMzE2JmxpPTIzNzg1/index.html>>

Health and Welfare

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include a card to the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Readers Corner

REMINDER!..If you didn't know before, you're probably learning the hard way that all cell phone numbers have been released to telemarketing companies and you will receive calls from your friendly, obnoxious telemarketers. Because you pay by the minute for incoming as well as outgoing calls on your cell phone, **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.** To prevent the unwanted calls and the charges, call the following number from your cell: 888-382-1222.

This number is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time to block your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You can also register at www.donotcall.gov. Pass this information on.

Thanks to Terri Goodman who is doing a yeoman's job of notifying dental hygienists about the upcoming preceptorship rule change.

Warning: DO NOT EVER dial area codes 809 , 284 AND 876. These area codes are outside the U.S. (The 809 area code is located in the Bahamas). The charges for dialing numbers in these area codes can be thousands of dollars per minute. You'll end up protesting the charges with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong. Additional information on these area codes can be found from ATT at:

<http://www.consumer.att.com/consumertips/areacode.html>

Reminder about the Newsletter Listserve

You've heard this before: our listserv will be purged to remove the following people: those who block the newsletter, those whose mail boxes are full, those who have not activated their email accounts, and those who change their addresses without notifying the editor. Every month, we have had to take this action because a faulty email address can end up blocking the entire list.

The editor's address is cameronc@bellsouth.net. Be sure the editor's address is in your contact list. We will add names to the listserv only when an interested person emails us and notes that the editor's address has been added to their contact list. If you can't open the attachment, notify the editor and she will paste a copy in to the body of your email.

Once again, the success of this newsletter depends on you. Let's get the ***Word of Mouth*** out.

Carroll Cameron, RDH, EdD, Editor,
South Florida Dental Hygiene Society